

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 /065 W  
----- 012178

R 291810Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2886

INFO USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NATO AEW (AWACS) PROGRAM

REFS: (A) STATE 265681; (B) STATE 266345; (C) BONN

17167

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN  
REFS A AND B, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY SAW FRG  
DEFENSE MINISTRY ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR EBERHARD AND AN  
EMBASSY OFFICER SAW HOLIK, ACTING COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR  
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NATO AFFAIRS AT THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE PRESENTED

BOTH OF THEM WITH THE AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINED IN REF A  
AND MADE THE TALKING POINTS CONTAINED IN REF B.

2. EBERHARD SAID THAT LEBER EXPECTED TO SEE MULLEY ON  
NOVEMBER 2 AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TALK ABOUT AWACS.  
HOWEVER, HE SAID, LEBER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE AN  
UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT AT THAT TIME. THE PROBLEM THAT  
HAS NOW DEVELOPED IS THAT THE FRG BELIEVES THE AEW  
SYSTEM CANNOT BE FULLY EFFECTIVE UNLESS A GROUND COMMUNI-  
CATIONS SYSTEM CAN BE DEVELOPED THAT CAN INDEED USE THE  
AEW'S CONSIDERABLE CAPACITY. HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN  
STUDIED AT NATO BUT THE GERMANS BELIEVE THE NATO STUDY  
UNDERESTIMATES THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF SUCH A SYSTEM.  
GERMAN STUDIES SUGGEST THE GROUND SYSTEM MAY COST AS  
MUCH AS \$L BILLION FOR ALL OF EUROPE AND PERHAPS MORE  
THAN THAT. OF COURSE, HE NOTED, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE  
GROUND SYSTEM WERE DESIRABLE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AND  
WOULD NOT ALL BE AWACS RELATED. HOWEVER, IF THE INVEST-  
MENT IN AWACS WERE TO BE MADE, THE OTHER COSTS MIGHT  
WELL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER FULLY TO UTILIZE THE AWACS  
INVESTMENT.

3. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM, EBERHARD  
SAID THAT AT PRESENT SOME 60 COMPUTER CENTERS IN EUROPE  
HAVE A LIMITED ABSORBTIVE CAPACITY WHICH WOULD HAVE TO  
BE CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE AWACS  
DATA. THE COST COULD BE AROUND \$7 MILLION IN HARDWARE  
FOR EACH, WITH PERHAPS MORE FOR SOFTWARE. A NATO  
PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ADAPTERS, IN THE FRG  
VIEW, WOULD NOT ENABLE THE COMPUTER CENTERS FULLY TO  
UTILIZE AEW DATA.

4. EBERHARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OTHER NATO STATES WERE  
NOT AS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AS THE GERMANS. HE  
BELIEVED A STUDY COULD BE DONE IN TIME FOR THE DECEMBER  
MINISTERIAL, AND PERHAPS SOME COMMON CONCLUSIONS COULD  
BE REACHED.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 /065 W  
----- 012327

R 291810Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2887

INFO USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18341

5. EBERHARD SAID HE WOULD SEE LEBER BEFORE THE MULLEY MEETING AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT LEBER WOULD FULLY TAKE ACCOUNT OF OUR APPROACH. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT LEBER COULD SPEAK UNRESERVEDLY UNTIL THE PROBLEM HE MENTIONED HAD BEEN FULLY STUDIED. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AEW SYSTEM AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE AMERICAN POSITION. EBERHARD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE US POSITION AND SAID THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRG APPROACHED THE SUBJECT IN THE SAME SERIOUS SPIRIT.

6. HOLIK OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOCUSSED HIS REMARKS PRINCIPALLY ON THE SUGGESTION FOR A GERMAN COMMITMENT SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG TO MAKE THAN FOR THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THE FRG DID NOT HAVE A SYSTEM FOR THE SEPARATION OF POWERS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. HOLIK ALSO NOTED, AS EBERHARD HAD DONE, THAT THE FRG HAD ALREADY APPROACHED OTHER NATO

STATES IN ORDER TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR NATO AEW.

7. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR A DISCUSSION WITH A SENIOR  
GERMAN MILITARY OFFICER LAST MONTH (REF C), WE HAVE NOT  
BEEN ADVISED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY RELATING TO THE AEW  
SYSTEM-RELATED GROUND COSTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY  
DATA WHICH WASHINGTON OR USNATO MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE  
US FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GERMANS.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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